PS04.17.21 CRYSTALLIZATION AND PRELIMINARY X-RAY STUDIES OF PHOSPHOENOLPYRUVATE CARBOXYLASE FROM Escherichia coli  Y. Kai1, T. Inoue2, Y. Nagara3, H. Matsumura4, K. Iizuta5, Departments of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Osaka University, Suita, Osaka 565, Japan, 5Department of Applied Botany, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyoto University, Sakyou-ku, Kyoto 606, Japan

Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (PEPC); EC 4.1.1.31) from Escherichia coli catalyzes the fixation of bicarbonate ion to form oxaloacetic acid and inorganic phosphate. It is composed of four identical subunits with molecular weight of ca. 100,000 dalton. Although the primary structure of PEPC has been determined in 1984,1 the molecular structure of PEPC has not been determined. In order to study its biological function based on the three dimensional structure, we have crystallized PEPC by using PEG4000 as precipitant;2 however, the quality of the diffraction pattern was rather low. To get crystals suitable for X-ray crystallographic studies, hanging drop vapor diffusion method was examined in various conditions with variety of pH, molecular weight of PEG, and additives as control parameters. The crystals under the best conditions appeared in tetragonal bipyramidal shape with orthorhombic crystal lattice, space group P222. The unit cell parameters were determined to be a=117.9, b=250.0, and c=81.8 Å (1 Å = 0.1 nm). Two sets of intensity data for native PEPC were obtained by using Rigaku RAXIS-IIc system and the Sakabe's Weissenberg camera in the Photon Factory, up to 3.4 Å and 2.5 Å resolution, respectively. These data sets were merged with PROTEIN. Among 142,035 accepted observations up to 2.5 Å resolution, 34,452 were independent reflections, the completeness of which was 66.4% with an R-merge of 10.4%. More than 20 sets of heavy-atom derivatives have been measured for the structure determination by multiple isomorphous replacement method. Among these derivatives the Hg-derivative gave an excellent difference-Patterson map. The two sites of Hg atom were refined to have a mean figure of merit 0.40 above 1.0 and the phasing power of 1.75 with the Cullis's R factor of 0.67 in the 20.0 - 3.5 Å resolution range by using the program MOLPHARE in the CCP4 program package. The search for other good heavy-atom derivatives and the phase improvement with the solvent flattening method are in progress.


PS04.17.22 CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF THE AMINO TERMINAL DOMAIN OF ENZYME I OF THE E. COLI PHOSPHOENOLPYRUVATE SUGAR PHOSPHOTRANSFERASE SYSTEM. Der-Ing Liu1, Enid Silverton1, Yeong-Jae Seok2, Byeong Ryong Lee2,3, Alan Peterkofsky2, David R. Davies1, Laboratory of Molecular Biology, NIDDK, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892.

The crystal structure of the amino terminal domain of enzyme I (EIN) from E. coli has been determined and refined at 2.5 Å resolution with the crystallographic R factor of 22.5%. Enzyme I catalyzes the first reaction in the multi-protein phosphoenolpyruvate: sugar phosphotransferase system (PTS), which couples the sugar translocation across bacterial cell membranes and phosphorylation. Enzyme I transfers the phosphoryl group from phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP) to a histidine containing phosphocarrier protein HPi through phosphorylation and dephosphorylation of a histidine residue HIS 189. EIN contains this phosphorylation site histidine and can transfer phosphoryl group back and forth between HPi and itself. Unlike the intact enzyme I, EIN can not be autophosphorylated by PEP. It has an elongated two-domain structure consisting of a four-helix α-helix domain and an αβ domain. In addition, there is a helical linker to the missing C-terminal domain of the intact enzyme I. The αβ domain of EIN is topologically similar to the phospho-histidine domain of the enzyme pyruvate phosphate dikinase (PPDK), which can be phosphorylated by PEP on a histidyl residue. The crystal structure of EIN as well as its comparisons with PPDK and EIIC, another PTS protein which also interacts with HPi, will be presented. A model of the interaction between EIN and HPi will also be proposed.

PS04.17.23 THE NOVEL ANTITUMOR NUCLEASE RC-PUP FROM RANA CATESBEIANA OOCYTES. Yan-Chywan Liu1, Falk N. Mosayev1, You-Di Liao2,3, Institute of Molecular Biology and Institute of Biomedical Science, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC

The crystal structure of RC-PUP, a pyrimidine-quinine sequence-specific ribonuclease which is isolated from Rana Catesbeiana (bullfrog) oocytes, has been determined. A number of anticancer proteins, which shown sequence highly homologous to RNase A, were recently found from frog eggs. These proteins are abundant in the frog oocytes and reveal cytotoxic ribonuclease activity, which they appear to bind to cells, enter the cytosol where they degrade the RNA and kill the target cells. It is very likely that exert this kind of cytotoxic ribonuclease as anti-parasitic and anti-cancer agent in human.

The RC-PUP is crystallized in the space group P41, with cell dimensions a = 68.7 Å, b = 68.7 Å, and c = 52.3 Å and diffract up to 2.4 Å resolution. The structure was solved by molecular replacement method using P-30 protein (Onconase) as initial model. The overall folding is similar to other RNase. Three loop regions show different folding.

Many specific features of RC-PUP and this class of proteins are under investigation, such as, the protein cell binding and their cytotoxic mechanism. The detail refinement and comparison with other RNases is in progress.

PS04.17.24 CTAP-IIIdes10: IMPLICATIONS OF AMINO TERMINAL RESIDUES ON CHEMOTACTIC ACTIVITY AND RECEPTOR ACTIVATION. Michael G. Malkowski1, Jerome B. Lazar2, Paul H. Johnson2, and Brian F.P. Edwards1, Department of Biochemistry, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48201 and Department of Molecular Biology, SRI International, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

CTAP-IIIdes10, which was generated by recombinant methods, with Met-11 replaced by leucine, has 1 fewer amino terminal residues than Connective Tissue Activating Protein-II (CTAP-II). It is more than 98% homologous to CTAP-II, CTAP-III, and Neutrophil Activating Protein-2 (NAP-2). CTAP-III (85 residues) and NAP-2 (70 residues), members of the CXC chemokine family, are carboxy terminal fragments of Platelet Basic Protein (PBP, 94 residues) which arise from cleavage by monocyte-derived proteases. NAP-2 has powerful neutrophil stimulating effects involved in inflammation, whereas the larger precursors, PBP and CTAP-III, are inactive. NAP-2 behaves like a typical chemotactic receptor agonist inducing a rise in cytosolic calcium, chemotaxis, and neutrophil activating Peptide-2 (NAP-2). NAP-2 has a highly conserved Glu-Leu-Arg (ELR) region that critical for receptor binding. The longer isoforms, PBP and CTAP-III, are inactive toward receptors at physiological concentrations. We have proposed that the extended amino terminus folds back to interact with the ELR region and block access to the receptor (Malkowski...